

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

**WELCOME!**

*If you have thirst our love will quench it.*

*If you are lonely our hope will be your company.*

*If you are hungry God's peace and joy will fill and feed you.*

(A Crib Room is available upstairs near the balcony for parents with infants where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed Toddler Room, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for children 12 months to 3 years old.)

**PRELUDE** "Carols from 'Languedoc' and Scotland" arr. Guilmant  
"Gesù Bambino" Yon  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Leavitt  
"O Thou Joyful/From Heaven Above" Leupold

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** Dave and Michelle Bower

Leader: Welcome today to this time of preparation.

**People: Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.**

Leader: Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

**People: How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.**

Leader: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

**People: Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #125 "Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

**ADVENT WREATH**

**The Candle of PEACE** (from Isaiah 9:6)

Reader 1: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Reader 2: We gather today knowing that the world is not perfect, that none of us are perfect. There is much that seems like chaos going on around us and many fears would trouble our thoughts. Yet, we have been given the promise of peace in Christ, the Prince of Peace. As we light this candle, we

proclaim peace here in our midst. Let us work for peace in our homes, in our nation and in our world.

*Lighting the Candle of Peace (in silence)*

**Prayer (unison)**

**Holy God, we thank you for your perfect peace, When life seems hectic and time seems short it is good to rest in the knowledge that you are in control. Teach us the ways of peace and help us always to strive for justice, that all of your people might live together in peace. Amen.**

**Hymn Response** #467 "Fill the World with Love" (vs.2)

*All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear, crying out into the night, wond'ring when someone will hear; while there are so many others having so much they can share, can we fill the world with love, when God fills the world with love.*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive communion.*

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER of BLESSING/The LORD'S PRAYER (unison)**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**WE REMEMBER** (recalling Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper)

**SHARING the BREAD and the CUP** (served in the pew; gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. **We will receive the elements when all are served.**)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)**

**Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

*(youth may leave for Sunday School)*

**SCRIPTURE** The Gospel of Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 55)

**SERMON**

Rev. Robin Bird

## SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

### MORNING PRAYER

### PRAYER RESPONSE

### CALL to OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Traditional

### \*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

### \*PRAYER of DEDICATION *(unison)*

**Gracious God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities. By our giving today, let us be active participants in establishing your peace on earth. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #677 "Let There Be Peace on Earth" *(sing twice)***

### \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** "Adeste fideles" J. Demessieux

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring **good news** to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ~ based on Luke 4:18-19*

**\*All who are able are invited to stand.**

**Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.**

### In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Heather and Dave Rumbold, Cathy Foote's niece and her husband on the loss of their home; Phillip Bogard, Cathy Foote's brother, having surgery this week; Cindy Dubuque on the loss of her mother, Jane Dubuque; the Barney/Oliphant family on the loss of Millie's cousin Debbie Barney; Bob Langone, Karen Bradford's father; Paris, France; Bertha Sullivan; Terri Carr; Dave LaPlante; Jake and Deb Garrow; David Hollister; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Candy, Lynette Melanson's sister; Dave Boucher; Greg Moffatt; Joyce Smith; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Nancy Bailey; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

*New additions in **bold print***

**Greeters:** Deacons

**Coffee Hour:** Furnishings & Memorials and Library Committees

### ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall** **Orders** for **Poinsettias** which are displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas will be taken **today** during Coffee Hour.

The **Memory Tree** will be lit again this Christmas season in the Memorial Garden. If you would like to honor loved ones, see a member of the Memorial Garden Committee during Coffee Hour **today**. The Memory Tree Honor Roll will be published in the January 2016 Carillon. The names of your loved ones being remembered will be included in this listing if your donation is received by December 7.

### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Junior Choir Rehearsal:** 11:30 a.m., PF Room

**Board of Music:** 11:30 a.m., Library

**J\*Walkrz:** 3:30 p.m., Chili Caroling

**Christmas Giving Tree** sponsored by the Board of Missions. We are collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can choose the toys that best fit their children's wants and needs for Christmas. Please note that *shopwithscrip.com* gift cards are a great option for older kids and teenagers. **Today is the last day** to choose an ornament tag from the Christmas Giving Tree set up in the back of the Sanctuary. Each tag bears the age and gender of a child in need. Please place your new, unwrapped gift (or gift card) under the tree by next Sunday, December 13. Any questions, please contact Sue Moreau at 860-268-8801 or [susan.j.moreau@gmail.com](mailto:susan.j.moreau@gmail.com). **Note:** If inclement weather cancels the church service on December 13, gifts will be collected in the Breezeway between 8-10 a.m. on Monday, December 14.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Bible Study:** Monday, December 7, 11 a.m., Library

**Evening Circle:** Monday, December 7, 7 p.m. at Millie Oliphant's for our Christmas Party.

**January CARILLON Deadline**  
**Tuesday, December 8**

**Men's Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

**Prayer Shawl:** Tuesday, December 8, 1 p.m., Library

**Deacons:** Tuesday, December 8, 6 p.m. at Delythe Kracke's home

**Trustees:** Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
**Support Group:** Friday, December 11, 10:30 a.m., Library  
**Advent Bible Study:** Friday, December 11, 7 p.m., Library  
**Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, December 12, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
**Board of Missions:** Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m., Library

**Christmas Cookie Sale:** Sunday, December 13 during Coffee Hour. For just \$5, fill a box with Christmas cookies! Sponsored by Women's Fellowship. Snow date, December 20.

**Junior Choir** for children in grades K-5, rehearses each Sunday after the worship service and a quick snack at 11:30 a.m. for 20 -30 minutes in the PF Room (Kellogg Hall). New members are welcome. Questions or suggestions? Contact Althea Madigan at 860-870-5185 (leave a message) or childssings@gmail.com.

**Scrip-Your-All Update:** To date we have earned \$4470 towards our \$5,000 goal for 2015! If you are planning on participating in the "Giving Tree" for Christmas (today is the last day to do so), think about buying a gift card for an older child or purchasing a gift card to use to buy your gift. New cards are available at the Scrip-Your-All table. We now have cards to KMart, Toys R Us, LL Bean, in addition to Walmart, TJ Maxx, Macy's, Amazon, iTunes, Target, and Rave Theater to name a few. Gift cards will be ordered throughout December but **December 13** will be the last date to order to receive gift cards in time for Christmas – available while they last are free holiday gift card holders. For complete information, check out our FCCV website ([firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all](http://firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all)) or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Jan Muro at [jmoze@hotmail.com](mailto:jmoze@hotmail.com) or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

**Reminder:** FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.  
**Please Note:** the November 29 Worship Service normally shown at 6 p.m. on December 7 will air that day at 4:30 p.m.

**Please Note:** To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.

**Reminder:** Donations made in memory of a loved one can be mailed to the church or left in the Furnishings and Memorials mailbox across from the office. Please include on the check the name of the person being remembered. If donations are to go to a particular committee, please indicate that on the front of the envelope. Thank you!

**Request:** If you are working on a project and need a place to store items, please do not use the Coat Room off the Narthex or the Brides Room. If you need a place for storage, please contact a Trustee or Furnishings and Memorials Committee member. Our church is a beautiful building and we want to keep our public areas looking their best. Many thanks!

## ADVENT CALENDAR

### **J\*Walkrz, Chili Caroling**

Today, 3:30-5 p.m.

### **Advent Bible Study**

*led by Barbara Hesse*

Friday, December 11, 7 p.m. in the Library

### **Christmas Cantata**

Sunday, December 13 during the Worship Service

### **Advent Bible Study**

*led by Barbara Hesse*

Friday, December 18, 7 p.m. in the Library

### **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant**

Thursday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Thursday, December 24, 11 p.m.

### **Lessons and Carols**

Sunday, December 27 during the Worship Service